AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

initiating a downloading session, wherein initiating includes downloading ~~receiving, with a server device, a request from a first client device to download~~ a file to be transmitted as a plurality of packets of data ~~from the server device~~ by an active device and a plurality of passive devices;

~~multicasting the plurality of packets of data from the server device to multiple client devices using a first transmission protocol that comprises a non-reliable multicast transmission protocol, wherein the multiple client devices include at least the first client device;~~

~~continuing to participate in the multicast download after an error if a file size is unknown and a last packet has not been successfully received; and~~

~~requesting,~~ when the ~~first client~~ active device has completed download of the ~~file~~ packets of data, each of the plurality of passive devices check for a packet gap, wherein the packet gap occurs~~, from the server device with a second client device from the multiple client devices packets of data not received by the second client device, wherein in the request utilizes a second transmission protocol that comprises non-multicast reliable protocol,~~ if the file size is known and a number of packets of the plurality of packets are lost, wherein a and ~~the~~ total size of the number of lost packets is less than a pre-selected amount; and

promoting one or more of the plurality of passive devices to being one or smart devices if the packet gap is detected for the one or more passive devices.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the multicasting of the plurality of packets~~initiating comprises multicasting to the multiple clients using a multicast Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP).

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the download of the file~~ downloading occurs during a pre-boot phase of the ~~first client~~ active device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 1 wherein the file comprises a boot image for the ~~first client~~active device.

Claims 6-18 (Cancelled)

19. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for initiating a downloading session, wherein initiating includes downloading a file to be transmitted as a plurality of packets of data by an active device and a plurality of passive devices;

when the active device has completed download of the packets of data, each of the plurality of passive devices check for a packet gap, wherein the packet gap occurs if the file size is known and a number of packets of the plurality of packets are lost, wherein a and total size of the number of lost packets is less than a pre-selected amount; and

means for promoting one or more of the plurality of passive devices to being one or smart devices if the packet gap is detected for the one or more passive devices.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein initiating comprises means for multicasting to the multiple clients using a multicast Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP).

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein downloading occurs during a pre-boot phase of the active device.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the file comprises a boot image for the active device.

23. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

one or more processors;

a network interface coupled with the one or more processors; and

computer-readable medium coupled with the one or more processors having stored thereon instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to

initiate a downloading session, wherein initiating includes downloading a file to be transmitted as a plurality of packets of data by an active device and a plurality of passive devices;

when the active device has completed download of the packets of data, each of the plurality of passive devices check for a packet gap, wherein the packet gap occurs if the file size is known and a number of packets of the plurality of packets are lost, wherein a and total size of the number of lost packets is less than a pre-selected amount; and

promote one or more of the plurality of passive devices to being one or smart devices if the packet gap is detected for the one or more passive devices.

24. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein the one or more processors are further caused to initiate comprises multicasting to the multiple clients using a multicast Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP).

25. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein downloading occurs during a pre-boot phase of the active device.

26. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein the file comprises a boot image for the active device.